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Creative Project Rationale

## *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is a text that focuses on a woman that projects her entrapment into the wallpaper that surrounds her. Because the woman in the text was surrounded by paper, I wanted the medium for my project to incorporate this. I chose to do a paper collage because, just like the story, I wanted there to be layers and depth to my project. In my paper collage I had each item represent an event or idea expressed in *The Yellow Wallpaper*. I wanted this paper collage to be an abstract art piece because I thought the text was abstract and a form of free expression from the narrator’s point of view.

## I set the main portion of my paper collage on a sky background because I feel the sky represents freedom. And just like in the text, freedom for the narrator was right beyond the yellow wallpaper. That was one of the major reasons I placed the yellow newspaper on top of the sky background. The clouds on the paper collage represent the dream like state the narrator entered while staring at the yellow wallpaper that surrounded the room she was in. I had yellow paper butterflies surround the border of the newspaper, as if they were coming from the newspaper, in my collage because butterflies have the connotation to represent freedom. I wrote quotes from *The Yellow Wallpaper* because writing made the narrator feel free. And each butterfly contains the words the woman wrote in the story to feel freedom from the entrapment she was experiencing. I made the butterflies yellow not only because yellow is a very significant color in the text, but also because the narrator saw freedom if she escaped the yellow wallpaper.

## In my paper collage I had various newspaper clippings with images on them on the sky background. I had the quotes on the butterflies correspond with the images. The watches represent time. Time is a major aspect in this text. Time is passing when the narrator spends time in isolation, the narrator spends a majority of time separated from her child, and the narrator spends time disconnected from the family unit. The ring represents the narrator’s marriage. The woman in the text was bonded by the expectations her husband had for her, like staying in bed. The tie represent’s the narrator’s husband and the influence he has over her. The placement of the tie was also significant in the paper collage. I had the tie touching the yellow newspaper because the narrator at one point believed her husband was the one entrapping her. The newspaper image of a sad woman with the quotation “I cried myself to sleep” represents the narrator’s depression. The woman in *The Yellow Wallpaper* suffered from “nervous depression” and often wrote about how tired emotionally drained she was. The newspaper image with the man on the swing represents the daydreams the narrator experienced. The narrator had a longing for freedom and dreamt of experiencing something beyond the four yellow wallpapered walls she felt trapped in. Just like the man on the swing the narrator was stuck where she was and only could imagine about the world she was not a part of.

## The main portion of my paper collage consisted of newspaper. I felt that *The Yellow Wallpaper* was a text about the importance of writing and the cathartic effect it had on an author. So much of *The Yellow Wallpaper*’s story surrounded around the narrator’s desire to write and that is why I felt it was important to incorporate a text based piece of paper in my paper collage. The yellow painted newspaper in the paper collage represents the yellow wallpaper in the story. The cage represents how the narrator felt entrapped within the wallpaper like a bird is trapped in a cage. The yellow eye signifies how all the narrator sees after a while is the yellow of the wallpaper. In the story the narrator becomes obsessed with the yellow wallpaper, often describing it as hideous, menacing, and disgusting. I put red lines within the eyeball of the yellow eye to symbolize the narrator’s tiredness. The narrator was tired of feeling entrapped by her husband to stay in bed, by the yellow wallpaper, and by the home in general. I had an image of a depressed woman behind the cage to represent the narrator entrapped and being barred in bed. I had the woman in the eye have yellow blonde hair because in the text the wallpaper became part of the narrator and I wanted the image to embody that. I also had the image of the depressed woman to be minimalistic to illustrate as if she was stripped of anything personal. I thought this was significant because the narrator in *The Yellow Wallpaper* was stripped of all her hobbies, responsibilities, and roles in the home. I had the image of the depressed woman be in the center of the yellow eye not only to make it the focal piece of the paper collage but to represent how the story is from the narrator’s point of view. *The Yellow Wallpaper* is a series of recollections the woman in the story writes and it is as if the reader sees events through her eyes.

## In conclusion, I wanted the medium for my project to incorporate how the woman in the text was surrounded by paper. I wanted there to be layers and depth to my paper collage because the story of this woman had layers and depth. I wanted my paper collage to be abstract because I thought the text was abstract. In my creative project I had each item represent an event or idea expressed in *The Yellow Wallpaper*. I think my creative conveyed to the viewer the narrator’s frustration she experienced by being entrapped by her husband to stay in bed, by the yellow wallpaper, and by the home in general. I felt my creative project sufficiently expressed the narrator’s search for freedom by escaping the yellow wallpaper that surrounded her.